



The Current

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

Winter 2022

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bill Richardson
Bill@drca.org

I hope all of you had a fun holiday season and have been enjoying or at least coping with our recent snowstorms. I would like to congratulate our eight holiday decorating contest winners, and extend my thanks to Amanda Weaver for initiating this contest in 2020, and to our judges for their work in running it.

We are delighted to have **County Board Member Takis Karantonis** as our principal speaker at our upcoming membership meeting to be held on **Wednesday, February 23**, at Taylor School at 7:30 p.m. Takis has taken a keen interest in a number of issues affecting our neighborhood and looks forward to engaging with you about these.

As many of you know, Takis was first elected to the Board in July 2020 to fill the seat vacated by the death of Erik Gutshall, and was recently reelected to a full four-year term. He is an economist and urban planner with more than 25 years of urban and regional planning experience and holds a master's degree from Berlin's Freie Universitaet in urban and regional economics. Takis is the former president of the Columbia Heights Civic Association and the former chair of the Board of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and the Arlington Public Art Committee.

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**Many thanks to
Andy's Lawn Service
for another season of
good care at the
Donaldson Run
Civic Association
sign area at Military Road
& N. 25th Street.
We always appreciate your
community spirit!**

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is
in person at Taylor Elementary School
Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

We hope you will use this opportunity to inform Takis of your concerns about pending issues affecting Arlington County. Among these may be the following:

- For much of the past year, the DRCA board has been meeting with Takis to address concerns from DRCA members about enforcement and reform of the lot coverage and height requirements of the County's Zoning Ordinance and we would like him to bring us up to date on the prospects for beginning a staff study on possible reform and for devoting resources in the upcoming County budget to enhance enforcement of existing requirements in this area.
- Takis has expressed an interest in hearing our views about the Donaldson Run stream restoration project (Tributaries A and B), upcoming staff proposals for Langston Boulevard (formerly Lee Highway) redevelopment, and Marymount's revised approach for a soccer field in the mulch pile/salt dome area.
- What can the County do to avoid the delays on residential construction projects that we have been seeing?
- How has the pilot project been working out for the Nelly Custis/Military Road traffic circle?
- What are your thoughts about how the County should address missing middle housing options?
- The County will be deep into preparing its proposed budget by the time of our February 23 meeting. What ideas do you have on the revenue and expenditure side of the budget?

I look forward to seeing you again on February 23. Please note that as guests of Taylor School, we will need to adhere to Arlington Public Schools requirements related to the COVID epidemic. This includes wearing masks. Any changes in requirements will be announced via our listserv and Facebook group prior to February 23.

SPECIAL ELECTION ON DRCA AGENDA

Last year, Liz Lord resigned from her position as a DRCA director. As noted by our Nominations Committee on page 4 of this newsletter, the two-

The Current is distributed free of charge to all households in the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) area. DRCA, like all civic associations in Arlington, is a neighborhood organization, administered by elected volunteers. The DRCA promotes information sharing and discussion on neighborhood, local, and regional issues. DRCA is not affiliated with any political or religious group or with the Donaldson Run Recreation Association that operates the swimming pool on Marcey Road. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School (2600 North Stuart Street) from September through May. Follow this newsletter for meeting dates. Only dues-paying DRCA residents are eligible to vote. DRCA boundaries are: Military Road on the east (including Marcey Road, North 26th Street, North 25th Place, and North Ridgeview Road); 26th/31st Street on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (including North Randolph Street and 27th Streets south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon Street on the west.

DRCA Board

President	Bill Richardson	525-5270
1st VP	John Seggerman	403-2844
2nd VP	Deirdre Dessingue	525-1351
Secretary	Charlie Henkin	294-4002
Treasurer	Kathy Rehill	403-1064
Director	Susan Cunningham	527-7705
Director		
Director	Amanda Weaver	202-365-3292
Director	Anne Wilson	525-0322
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	407-8045

year terms for all DRCA officers and directors expire later this year.

John Fisher has offered to serve out the remainder of Liz's term. In accordance with DRCA's constitution and bylaws, the board plans to nominate John to fill this vacancy at our February 23 meeting, and nominations will be taken from the floor. The constitution and bylaws state that eligible voters will include adult members of households whose dues have been fully paid 60 days prior to the vote.

UPDATE ON STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Aileen Winqvist

The Tributary B stream restoration construction is nearing completion. The County appreciates the partnership of the Donaldson Run Civic Association for this important project.

The work to re-shape the stream channel and the addition of stone structures will reduce energy within the channel, protect the stream banks from erosion, and accommodate high flows during flooding events.

The project addresses numerous infrastructure issues, including a vulnerable, 30-inch water main, failing stormwater outfalls, and the eroding bike/walk trail near the confluence with Tributary A. Prior spot stabilization to protect the water main was not successful long-term. The stream restoration project will protect this important infrastructure.



The before picture shows the extensive stream erosion that was threatening the water main, trail, and trees along the stream channel.



An after picture shows the new channel with step pools to manage and direct the energy of the flow.

In the spring, planting for the project will take place, which will include 332 native trees, 180 shrubs, 200 live stakes (cuttings that will grow into trees), and more than 4000 herbaceous plants. Temporary stabilization of the construction area will be provided by ryegrass. Trees will include flowering dogwood, black cherry, beech, American holly, red oak, black gum, white oak, sycamore, spicebush, elderberry, and many other species. Plants will include woodland sedge, broomsedge, Christmas fern, sensitive fern, several species of goldenrod, soft rush, swamp milkweed, and white wood aster. Deer protection will be used on trees planted higher on the slopes. The planting contract includes a five-year warranty on the plants and invasive plant control.

Additional information on the trees and plants is available on the project plans (see pages 45 and 47): <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2020/09/S32D-Donaldson-Run-Tributary-B-Final-Plans.pdf>

The trail will remain closed until the contractor demobilizes heavy equipment and it is safe for the public. We will update the community on the schedule for trail re-opening as soon as it is available.

More information about this project is available on the project website: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Environment-Projects/Donaldson-Run-Stream-Restoration-Tributary-B>

If you have questions about this project, please contact Aileen Winqvist at awinqvist@arlingtonva.us.

MARYMOUNT PARTNERS WITH CURATIVE FOR COVID TESTING

Marymount University now has a Curative kiosk located in the side parking lot next to Reinsch Library at the University's 26th Street entrance. Testing is available to everyone by appointment – including Marymount students, staff, faculty, and the surrounding community. No age restrictions will be in place, and Arlington residency is not required to receive a test. Doctor referrals are also not required.

REPORT ON DECEMBER 13 MEETING ON REAGAN AIRPORT NOISE

Charlie Henkin

The meeting on December 13, 2021 to report on studies and developments regarding airport noise for Arlington County provided some new information about noise improvements for approaching aircraft, especially for the northern neighborhoods along Military Road, from Potomac Overlook Park northward. The timelines for FAA acceptance are somewhat disappointing, specifically FAA's review is ongoing and publication dates for the new procedures currently range from February 2023 to October 2023. FAA was expected to provide an update on their process and the publication dates at the next Community Working Group (CWG) meeting on January 27, 2022 (note: this newsletter was printed prior to this meeting date). This new routing involves a precise path which changes the equally precise current path that has markedly affected both Montgomery County and Donaldson Run residents. Northern arrivals will come more to the Arlington side of the river but not directly over Donaldson Run as now and also provide new relief to the Washington and Maryland side of the Potomac Palisades. On the other hand, as noted above, consultants could not assure listeners that the 18-24 month period over which flight plan changes have normally taken to be adopted by most airlines would occur here due to possible other emergency issues FAA may be confronting.

As for departures, there are two issues. The first is the proportion of north-flow vs. south-flow operations at DCA, for which it has been difficult to get a straight answer from the FAA but is certainly in the 60 percent to 70 percent range for north flow. This is the FAA's stated operational preference (based on their comments at CWG meetings). This distribution of departure flight activity at DCA is something that will need to be revisited along with other regional policy considerations following the conclusion of the current consultant-supported technical study. The second issue is the lateral shift in expected flight paths proposed in the draft departure procedures that were presented at the evening's community meeting. These are rather detailed but do not appear to provide significant relief to our area. Possibly new noise abatement procedures for altitude may help in this regard. All the departure changes are up for public comment.

Also for the future, systems and processes for monitoring actual airline compliance with the new profiles remain to be adopted and are important since deviation within one mile from recommended profiles is up to pilot discretion. Parts of the flight paths are over curvy parts of the Potomac where pilot choices may supersede FAA-recommended flight paths.

The Arlington County web page posts a recording of the airport noise presentation which you can access at:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/CMO/Airport-Noise>



INTERESTED IN SOMETHING NEW? CONSIDER JOINING THE DRCA LEADERSHIP TEAM

This spring DRCA will be holding its biannual elections and positions for Director and Secretary are open. We are seeking neighbors who are interested in helping guide the activities and direction of the civic association for the next two years. If you have some time and an interest in the many aspects of our neighborhood, you may want to consider joining our group of committed volunteers. The benefits of being a board member include getting a preview of issues facing the neighborhood and County and working with a collegial group of neighbors. We strive to have all parts of the neighborhood represented on the board, and we would benefit from having someone who could help with technology issues, such as managing the DRCA website.

The nominating committee for the election includes Deirdre Dessingue (deirdre@drca.org), John Seggerman (john@drca.org), and Anne Wilson (anne@drca.org). If you are interested in learning more about what is involved, contact a member of the nominating committee.

COUNTY BOARD APPROVES PLAQUE HONORING LARRY FINCH

Anne Wilson

At the County Board meeting on January 22, 2022, the Board approved the memorial plaque honoring longtime DRCA resident, volunteer, and park advocate Larry Finch. This plaque is the second one approved by the County under its memorial plaque program. The first honored Eric Gutshall, former County Board Member. Larry's children and grandchildren helped design the plaque and it was their idea to include a photo of Larry, which added a personal element that will be especially appreciated by those who knew him. The plaque will be installed on a rock near the Military Road entrance of Zachary Taylor Park.

Friends of Arlington Parks (FOAP) joined DRCA in this effort to honor Larry. The plaque was funded in part by DRCA and from contributions made in Larry's memory through FOAP. A dedication ceremony will be planned in the spring on a date that is coordinated with Larry's family. Details for this event will be communicated to DRCA members through the email list. If you are not on that list, contact anne@drca.org.

MARYMOUNT OFFERS NEW APPROACH FOR SOCCER FIELD AT 26th AND OLD DOMINION

Anne Wilson and Bill Richardson

As longtime residents know, for many years Marymount University has been interested in building a soccer field at the corner of 26th Street and Old Dominion Drive, on land that is owned by the County. Three years ago, a County-appointed task force rejected Marymount's plan.

Marymount has recently suggested a revised approach. Last summer, the school purchased an adjacent property for \$3M that borders Missionhurst and the salt dome facility. The university's latest concept includes an NCAA soccer field surrounded by a track, spectator seating, and supporting facilities, to be placed at the corner of the intersection now occupied by trees. The proposal also includes a 9.5-acre nature preserve with trails, making use of Marymount's

newly acquired adjacent property and an area owned by Missionhurst, and a 0.67-acre playground to be located near the Marymount library. To make room for the new athletic field complex, Marymount proposes to relocate the mulch distribution to the salt dome facility with access from Old Dominion Drive and eliminate the County's large leaf mulch operation at the site.

Last month the County Manager invited Marymount, DRCA, and Old Dominion Civic Association to discuss this revised proposal. These discussions are in a very preliminary stage, and it is unknown whether the County will be inclined to reopen the issue to consider the revised proposal. If the County is willing to engage with Marymount on this, there must be a robust public process to explore the many issues and concerns around any proposed changes to land use on this property. DRCA will continue to follow this issue closely and report on any further developments.

SECOND ANNUAL DRCA HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

John Seggerman

Last month, DRCA held its second annual Holiday Decorating Contest. As you no doubt noticed while driving and walking in the neighborhood over the holidays, our residents exhibited their holiday spirit with some creative, festive displays. A three-person DRCA team had a difficult job in judging the neighborhood's many inspired candidates in seven categories plus Judges' Choice. Our congratulations to the winners listed below and thanks to everyone for brightening our neighborhood!

Best Inflatable Display: 3963 26th Street

Best Lights: 2611 Marcey Road

Best Doorway: 2322 Stafford Street

Best "Griswold" (most humorous): 2448 Utah St.

Best Traditional: 2541 Vermont Street

Best Block/Cul-de-sac/Intersection or Street: 26th Street, North, between Yorktown Boulevard and Wakefield Street

Best Tree: 2737 Wakefield Street

Judges' Choice: 2321 Utah Street

PROFESSIONAL HELP AROUND the HOUSE

Email Mary@DRCA.org with recommendations or removals.

Appliance Repair

Paul Mills, Master Appliance Service, (703) 938-6910, recommended by Maxine Nagel, (703) 524-5093

Computer Support Services

Pete Herbst, (703) 283-6595, recommended by Judy Cherrington, (703) 243-6034.

Cameron Jones (571) 217-3596, recommended by Rose Bannigan, (703) 524-6722

Gutter Installation or Cleaning and Repair

Metro Gutter & Home Services, Inc. (703) 354-4333
Recommended by Judy Cherrington, (703) 243-6034

Northern Virginia Gutter Cleaning (571) 352-7292,
www.NOVAGutters.com, recommended by
Maxine Nagel, (703)-524-5093

Auguste Remy, The Gutterworks Company (703)
425-9595, recommended by Dan Sagalyn, (703) 795-5490

Handyman Services

Sam Axton, (703)-569-5707 or
Sam_Axton@msn.com,
recommended by Jeanne Svikhart (703) 851-2695

Chris Lamar with Arlington Home Service, (703)
362-0930 or ahservice@verizon.net, recommended
by Martha Shmokler, mess14@juno.com

Tulio Pineda, (703) 940-4126, recommended by
Chuchi Arevalo, (703) 371-3155

Housecleaning

Cynthia Baldo, (703) 843-8272, recommended by
Sharon Frey, (703) 405-5674

Sonia Cerna, (571) 428-8616, recommended by
Zlática and Werner Hahn, (703) 528 1982.

Sandra Hueco, home: (571) 277-7579 cell: (703)
338-6160, recommended by Glenn Ward, (703) 527-7315

Jupiter's Cleaning & Services, Barhas at (703) 981-8700 or e-mail Jupiters.2011@gmail.com,
recommended by Karen Hanneman, (703) 527-4604

Professional Housecleaning Services, managed by
Alba Isabel, (703) 928-9089 recommended by Rob
Jones, (703) 276-0545

Squeaky Cleaners, LLC,
squeakycleanersnova@gmail.com, recommended
by Shany O'Donnell, Shanybenitah@gmail.com

Interior Decorating/Home Design:

Stefani McNair at McNair Designs, (703) 868-3489.
Recommended by Alexa & James Fleming, (703)
577-3812.

Landscaping and Yardwork

Lawn and Tree Services, Tu Nguyen, (703) 622-7988, recommended by Barbara and Dan Taft (703) 276-1987

Tulio Pineda, (703) 940-4126, recommended by
Chuchi Arevalo, (703) 371-3155

Andrew Preziosi, (703) 525-6170, recommended by
Leslie Curley, (703) 243-9459

Painting and/or Wallpapering

Jim Gullickson, (202) 549-7528, recommended by
Mary and Mark Connelly, (703) 527-6382, Dan
Sagalyn, (703) 795-5430 Peggy and Bob
Pruszkowski, (703) 524-5399, Carol and Joe
Macmanus, (703)-243-6736, and Susan Dubas, (703)
732-3351

Tulio Pineda, (703) 940-4126 (interior / exterior),
recommended by Chuchi Arevalo, (703) 371-3155

Ed Wilkerson of C. W. Wilkerson & Sons, (703)
524-1019, recommended by Liz Hayes, (202) 320-0500

Pet/Dog Sitting

Dog Gone Tired, (703) 625-9746,
DOGGONETIRED@zoho.com. recommended by
Cathie Roberts, (703) 527-8353

Tommy's Little Pet Service

Website: www.tommyslittlepetservice.com, (202)-
714-2819, recommended by Nan Helm, (703) 203-2894

Roof and Exterior Cleaning

Smart Wash, (703) 595-4000, recommended by Dug
and Judy Gillies, (703) 528-3437

Window Cleaning

Old Dominion Cleaning Co. (ask for Teri for easy
to do estimate) (703) 569-2000, recommended by
Liz Hayes (703) 528-4119.

Virginia Window Cleaners, Inc. (703) 442-3950,
recommended by Judy Cherrington, (703) 243-6034

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Please check your mailing label to see how many residents in your home are members and the latest year for which dues have been paid. Dues cover a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible. Note that only members whose dues have been paid 60 days in advance are allowed to vote on civic association business.

Dues: \$15 per household per calendar year. Payment for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years (circle one)

Total dues: \$ _____ Newsletter contribution: \$ _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

New resident: Yes _____ No _____ Email only copy of newsletter Yes _____ No _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

Address: _____

Are you already on the DRCA email list? _____

If you are not on the DRCA listserv, we recommend that you sign up for it so that you will be notified of issues in a timely way. Would you like to be added to this listserv? _____

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comment

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.

Mail to: Kathy Rehill, Treasurer, 2701 N. Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207

HIRE A NEIGHBOR!

Many thanks to our neighborhood teens who are available for the jobs listed below. If you, or someone you know, are interested in providing a neighborhood service, email mary@drca.org.

Babysitting

Mackenzie Rau, 13 y.o., susannewton@yahoo.com or 703-898-7307

Paula Margison, 18 y.o., 703-357-8528

Sophia Coccozza, 17 y.o., 571-639-8785

Dog Walking & Pet Care

TJ Hutchison, 18 y.o., 703-812-9697

Quinn Cooper, 18 y.o., 703-401-0133

Snow Shoveling/Lawn Care

Quinn Cooper, 18 y.o., 703-401-0133

JOIN THE DRCA EMAIL LIST

Anne Wilson

If you are not already on the DRCA email list, please sign up so that you will not miss neighborhood news that arises between DRCA meetings and newsletters. Recent topics have included updates on the stream restoration project and the latest on nearby covid testing.

To be added to the list, send your name and street address to anne@drca.org. If you have neighbors who are new to Donaldson Run, please spread the word!

**Donaldson Run Civic Association
c/o Kathy Rehill, Treasurer
2701 N. Wakefield Street
Arlington, VA 22207**

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**This is your neighborhood newsletter.
See page 2 for Civic Association information.**

**Next Donaldson Run Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

Agenda:

County Board Member Takis Karantonis

In person at Taylor Elementary School